Checking the poultry rearing in country yards

1554. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRALAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

in the light of repeated emergence of bird-flue threats in the country whether Government in coordination with World Health Organization (WHO) and other affected neighbouring countries is taking any steps to inculcate best practices while simultaneously initiating steps to discourage the practice of rearing poultries in the backyard of rural households;

if so, the details of steps taken towards the said two fronts; and

if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILALBHURIA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has adopted WHO recommended guidelines for managing human cases of Avian Influenza and pandemic preparedness.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has proposed cross-border surveillance for Avian Influenza involving India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Nepal in order to have transparency, exchange of bird flue related information, trade in livestock products and mutual cooperation in control and containment of Avian Influenza. The proposal has been agreed to in-principle.

• An Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign has been launched in print media and over television and radio. The campaign has focused on safe poultry practices, preparedness, food safety implications and consuming well cooked chicken and eggs. The poultry industry is also encouraged to carry out similar campaign.

(c) Question does not arise.

Implementation of Swaminathan Committee Report

1555. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that the Swaminathan Committee recommended several steps for the revival of agriculture;

if so, the salient features of the recommendations;

the details of the progress of implementation, recommendation-wise;

whether it is also a fact that implementation of recommendations is not up to the expected level;

if so, the reasons therefor; and

the steps contemplated by Government to implement the above said recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) Based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers headed by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, as contained in the Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers,